I

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD

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Bideford 2486.

Public Health Department,
Cooper Street,
Bideford.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BIDEFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1968

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
LIBRARY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.,

Printed by Gazette Printing Service, Bideford, Devon

Report of Medical Officer of Health

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bideford.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1968.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1969.

Health Committee

YEAR 1968/69

The Worshipful the Mayor	Councillor P. J. V. Fulford
Chairman	Alderman A. E. Fulford
Councillors	R. D. D. Birdwood, M.C., D.L., J.P.
	E. C. Hart
	Mrs. E. J. Brown
	A. P. Hughes
	J. W. Needs
	E. Hill
	Mrs. E. M. V. Patt
	C. Coates

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

Inspector of Meats and Foods
Housing Officer
Petroleum Officer

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

G. H. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in Acres	4,068
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	11,030
Rateable Value (as at 1-4-1968)	£356,244
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1968/69)	£1,430
General Rate in the £ for Year 1968/69	12s. 1d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1-4-68)	3,566
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31-12-68)	698
Density of Persons per House	3.23
Extracts from Vital Statistics	
Births : Area Comparability Factor	1.13
Deaths : Area Comparability Factor	0.76

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number	177
Rate per 1,000 population	16.0
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	18.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	6.2
Stillbirths	
Number	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	6.0
Total Live and Still Births	178
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	1
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	6.0
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births	6.0
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	Nil
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	6.0
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	181
Death Rate per 1,000 population	16.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	12.5

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1950

Year	*Population (Regist. Gen. Estimate)*	*Live Births*	*Deaths*
1950	10,270	149	152
1951	10,200	167	187
1952	10,170	152	143
1953	10,210	146	152
1954	10,300	159	148
1955	10,220	136	140
1956	10,200	141	168
1957	10,210	174	139
1958	10,340	146	138
1959	10,460	156	157
1960	10,510	174	156
1961	10,600	146	168
1962	10,820	161	138
1963	10,820	176	163
1964	10,820	161	168
1965	10,830	163	169
1966	10,830	169	157
1967	10,850	191	177
1968	11,030	177	181

BIRTHS

During the year there were 177 live births, which was 14 less than occurred during 1967.

Live Births	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	88	78	166
Illegitimate	3	8	11
	91	86	177

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16.0

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Fact. 18.1

Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.9

Still Births

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	1	–	1
Illegitimate	–	–	–

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births 6.0

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 181, as compared with 177 in 1967.

Males	*Females*	*Total*
78	103	181

Death Rate per 1,000 population 16.4

Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor 12.5

Death Rate for England and Wales.... .... 11.9

The following table shows the Causes of Death :—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	10	8	18
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	2	2
Leukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	2
Other Endocrine etc. diseases	—	1	1
Anaemias	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	—	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	—	2
Hypertensive Disease	2	6	8
Ischaemic Heart Disease	28	14	42
Other Forms of Heart Disease	4	5	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	22	26
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	12	15
Influenza	1	3	4
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System....	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	2	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	6	6
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	4
Diseases of Musculo-skeletal System	—	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	1	3
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	—	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All Other Accidents	2	4	6
All Other External Causes	—	1	1
	78	103	181

DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE FOLLOWING AGE-GROUPS

Under 1 year	1	35–44 years	2
1– 4 years	2	45–54 years	9
5–14 years	1	55–64 years	24
15–24 years	1	65–74 years	52
25–34 years	1	Over 75 years	88

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

There were no deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

One infant died under the age of one year

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred of women in childbirth.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 27 deaths from Cancer during the year, four less than in 1967.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Stomach	–	3	3
Lungs and Bronchus	3	1	4
Breast	–	–	–
Uterus	–	–	–
Other	10	10	20
	13	14	27

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1950	–	–	–
1951	2	–	2
1952	–	–	–
1953	2	–	2
1954	3	2	5
1955	2	–	2
1956	3	–	3
1957	1	–	1
1958	2	–	2
1959	4	–	4
1960	3	1	4
1961	5	–	5
1962	5	–	5
1963	6	–	6
1964	7	–	7
1965	5	1	6
1966	3	–	3
1967	3	1	4
1968	3	1	4

The total number of Cancer deaths, and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths since 1950 are shown in the following table :—

Year	*Total No. of Deaths*	*Cancer Deaths*			*Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths*
		M.	*F.*	*Total*	
1950	152	7	21	28	18.4%
1951	187	12	11	23	12.3%
1952	143	15	14	29	20.3%
1953	152	14	10	24	15.8%
1954	148	11	19	30	20.3%
1955	140	9	9	18	12.8%
1956	168	15	13	28	16.7%
1957	139	8	11	19	13.7%
1958	138	15	11	26	18.8%
1959	157	12	10	22	14.0%
1960	156	12	15	27	17.3%
1961	168	15	10	25	14.9%
1962	138	18	11	29	21.0%
1963	163	11	15	26	15.9%
1964	168	21	13	34	20.2%
1965	169	18	18	36	21.3%
1966	157	15	9	24	15.3%
1967	177	11	20	31	17.5%
1968	181	13	14	27	14.9%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1968, arranged in age groups :—

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Infective Jaundice	Tuberculosis	
				Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.
Under 1 year	—	5	—	—	—
1+	—	11	—	—	—
2+	—	12	—	—	—
3+	1	15	—	—	—
4+	1	18	—	—	—
5—9	2	39	—	—	—
10—14....	—	—	2	—	—
15—19....	—	—	2	—	—
20—34....	—	—	—	—	—
35—44....	—	—	—	—	—
45—64....	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	100	5	—	—

FOOD POISONING

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported.

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1950

Year	No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.	Case Rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1950	7	0.68	6	0.58
1951	12	1.17	2	0.20
1952	9	0.88	0	Nil
1953	10	0.98	3	0.29
1954	8	0.78	0	Nil
1955	5	0.49	1	0.10
1956	5	0.49	1	0.10
1957	1	0.10	0	Nil
1958	6	0.58	1	0.10
1959	5	0.48	1	0.10
1960	7	0.67	1	0.10
1961	4	0.38	0	Nil
1962	3	0.28	0	Nil
1963	1	0.09	0	Nil
1964	1	0.09	1	0.09
1965	2	0.18	0	Nil
1966	2	0.18	2	0.18
1967	1	0.09	0	Nil
1968	0	Nil	0	Nil

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December :

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			TOTAL
1968	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1st January	29	25	54	4	7	11	65
31st December	28	26	54	4	7	11	65

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit now visits the Borough every fortnight on alternate Thursdays between the hours of 10 and 11 a.m. It is situated at the Council's Car Park, Kingsley Road, and its services are available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes, who are aged and infirm and living in insanitary conditions and who are unable to care for themselves and are not receiving proper care and attention from others. Such persons are removed to a County Welfare Home. They can be admitted voluntarily if they so desire.

One elderly person was removed compulsorily to a County Welfare Home under this Act during the year.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are three Infant Welfare Clinics, one at Coronation Road (Thursday afternoons), one at the Church Institute (second and fourth Tuesday afternoons each month), and one at East-the-Water Community Centre (first and third Tuesday afternoons each month).

'MEALS ON WHEELS'

This service is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Services. The meals are prepared at the Rugby Club Kitchen and approximately eighty meals a week are delivered to the elderly.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an Infectious Disease unit at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves the Borough as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX

The present arrangements are that LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital will be the "first line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases in Devon and Cornwall, with LEE MILL Hospital as "second line" hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance now provides transport for Smallpox cases in Devon or Cornwall. The telephone number is Plymouth (OPL.2)64101.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Venereal Disease Clinic : This is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, Glossop Annexe :—

Sessions

Males	Mondays	5.15 p.m.	*Females*	Mondays	4.00 p.m.
	Thursdays	5.45 p.m.		Thursdays	4.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

There are three Infant Welfare Clinics at Bideford. They are held on the following days :—

Coronation Road Clinic

Every Thursday afternoon 2-4 p.m.

Church Institute

Second and fourth Tuesday afternoon in each month 2—4 p.m.

East-the-Water Community Centre

First and third Tuesday afternoon in each month 2–4 p.m.

Coronation Road Clinic

Dental Clinics :	every Tuesday morning.
Eye Clinic :	every Wednesday by appointment.
Family Planning Clinic :	every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening in the month.
Hearing Clinic :	on the 1st Tuesday morning each month by appointment.
Speech Therapy Clinic :	held alternate Fridays by appointment.
Chiropody Clinic :	1st Monday in the month all day on the 2nd Monday morning each month 3rd Tuesday in the month all day 2nd Thursday in the month all day every Friday with the exception of 1st Friday in the month.
Cytology Clinic :	approximately one a month by appointment.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To the Worshipful the Mayor and Members of the Bideford Borough Council

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Eighteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the area.

This year attention has been focussed on making a determined drive towards completing the Council's current five-year programme for clearance of unfit properties. The result of the Local Public Inquiry into the compulsory purchase of the Bridge Street/Union Street Area was received, confirming—with minimum amendments—the Council's Clearance Order and agreeing to the compulsory purchase of the houses in this Area. Demolition of these old and worn out properties right in the middle of the town will give scope for enlightened redevelopment of the cleared site to fit in with the urgent needs of the town's main shopping centre. A report has been made to the Council on detailed inspections made of properties in the Vinegar Hill/Barnstaple Street Area, with a view to the demolition of the remaining unfit houses in Vinegar Hill. Work of carrying out detailed surveys of unfit properties in preparation for the report to the Council on the last of the major clearance areas in the town, namely the New Street/Lower Gunstone Area is well advanced. This Area also, if approved by the Council and confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, will provide another much needed open site in the town centre and greatly relieve the congested business premises on the west side of Mill Street. In 1969, we can look forward to the formulation of the next five year programme of clearance work, which I sincerely hope will enable us, virtually, to eliminate the remaining unfit houses for which clearance is the only practical solution.

A total of only fourteen applications for discretionary and standard grants were received during the year, nearly all of which were from owner/occupiers. It is abundantly clear that the present voluntary scheme for the improvement of houses only scratches the surface of those houses which are ripe for improvement, and it is in this field of house improvement that we must now place increasing emphasis, in an endeavour to encourage the owners of the older house properties to provide a reasonable standard of fitness and amenity. Tenants for their part must expect to pay an appropriate rent, properly regulated by reference to the rent officer, where houses are brought up to a satisfactory state of repair and provided with standard amenities. I look forward to further legislation which will widen the scope of the present grant

schemes and simplify their administration, and in so doing make these schemes more attractive to owner/occupiers and especially to landlords of tenanted properties.

Progress in other spheres of work of the department showed a continuing increase in activity, particularly in the administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and Food Hygiene Regulations.

This year saw the start of a joint " locum " scheme with Northam Urban District Council, whereby the public health inspectors of either authority will undertake urgent work in the district of the other authority during leave of absence of any of that authority's public health inspectors. This sort of co-operation, especially among small authorities, has much to commend it, and will ensure that the public have full coverage in this field at all times.

HOUSING

This year saw a rise in the waiting list of applicants for Council houses. The number of houses built in the Borough by private enterprise rose very steeply, and if private building continues to increase, one wonders what effect this will have eventually on the number of applicants for Council houses.

Rehousing of residents in the Bridge Street/Union Street Clearance Area was nearly completed.

Improvement Grants

Work under this heading is summarized as follows :—

Discretionary Grants

Number of applications received	6
Number of applications approved	6
Estimated value of work approved	£3,252 17s. 2d.

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	8
Number of applications approved	6
Number of applications not proceeded with	2
Estimated maximum value of work approved	£1,640

RENT ACT 1957

No action under this Act was taken during the year.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

It was not necessary to take action in connection with this type of property during the year.

HOUSES COMPLETED AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR WERE :

(*a*) By the Borough Council		8
(*b*) By private enterprise		144
Total		152
Applicants on housing list at end of 1967		87
Applicants added to list during 1968		98
Total		185
Applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies	42	
Applicants removed from the list having obtained private accommodation or left the district	24	
		66
Number of applicants on list at end of year		119

Continuing the Council's policy for making available housing accommodation to help newly established industries in the town, two key workers were housed, this number being included in the above number of applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under the Public Health Acts	286
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	215
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	64
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	235
Revisits made under Housing Acts	90
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	25
Overcrowding	2
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)	22
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)—Revisits	25
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)	32
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)—Revisits	27
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House applications)	110
Milk and Dairies Act	3
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	91
Inspection of Food and Food Premises—Revisits	26
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises	18
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises—Revisits	6
Water Samples (Bacteriological)	2
Water Samples (Chemical)	2
Water Supply	3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	87
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Revisits	26
Factories Act	8
Factories Act—Revisits	3
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	10
Noise Abatement Act, 1960—Revisits	2
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	2
Pet Animals Act, 1951	4
Pet Animals Act, 1951—Revisits	2
Petroleum	33
Petroleum—Revisits	48
Rodent Control	3
Mortuary	13
Number of Preliminary Notices served	76
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	78
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations	7
Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations	6
Number of Notices served under Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1959 and 1963	5
Number of Notices completed under Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1959 and 1963	5
Number of Notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	12
Number of Notices completed under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	16
Number of Statutory Notices served	11
Number of Statutory Notices completed	12

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(*i*) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	—	—	—
(*ii*) Factories not included in (*i*) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	11	2	—
(*iii*) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	—	—	—
Total	109	11	2	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(*a*) Insufficient	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	5	Nil	3	Nil
Total	7	8	Nil	5	Nil

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—Making, Etc.	55	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Sorting	3	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	59	—	—	—	—	—

RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at King George V Field and those for Jennetts and Gammaton Reservoirs were provided by the Engineer to the North Devon Water Board.

	King George V Field	*Jennetts*	*Gammaton*
January	97.8	96.7	98.0
February....	48.3	47.7	43.9
March	65.5	69.6	69.6
April	64.0	66.3	70.6
May	50.0	49.4	58.6
June	108.9	104.1	125.0
July	115.3	115.3	114.8
August	61.5	50.0	56.5
September	102.4	109.1	120.0
October	95.8	112.0	101.1
November	56.6	60.7	59.0
December	115.6	125.4	129.0
	981.7	1006.3	1046.1
	Millimetres	Millimetres	Millimetres

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

The North Devon Water Board continued to provide the district with a supply of drinking water which was satisfactory in quality and quantity and not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

As the fluoride content of North Devon waters is only an insignificant trace and is not likely to vary much, samples for examination for determining fluoride are not being taken regularly.

The output of the Jennetts Waterworks during the year averaged 565,000 gallons per day of which about 160,000 were supplied into the Northam system. Output of the Gammaton Waterworks was 116,000 gallons per day average. Main-laying during the year consisted generally

of extensions to housing development schemes, but in addition of course there was the emergency caused by the collapse of the Bideford Bridge on 9th January. This meant the severing of two 8in. mains which crossed the bridge, but it was possible to maintain supplies by re-zoning and no consumers were affected. During the year a temporary 4in. main was laid over the emergency bridge and this is expected to remain until the permanent bridge is reconstructed when one only of the 8in. mains will be re-laid.

In the Clovelly Road district lying above the area which could be served from the Buckland Road Reservoir, a new high level zone has been introduced to supply the development which is now taking place. This has been made possible by the Board's new 10in. trunk main between Melbury Waterworks and Buckleigh. There is substantial domestic and industrial development to the east of Sentry Corner which takes its supplies from the Board's 6in. trunk main from Huntshaw Cross.

Forty-six samples of treated water from the Jennetts supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and all these were Class I.

Forty-nine samples of treated water from the Gammaton supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and all but two of these were-Class I. Remedial action was taken following adverse reports on the two samples mentioned abovc.

I am indebted to the Chief Engineer of the Board for the foregoing information.

Two water samples of the public supply were taken by this department for bacteriological examination and one sample for chemical analysis. These samples were taken in the course of investigation into a complaint of the drinking water being poor in quality and quantity at a farm, which together with an adjacent house is supplied from a private storage reservoir connected to the main supply. In particular, it was alleged that pond water was being diverted into the supply to this farm. The reports on the samples taken indicated that the water supply was satisfactory, and did not confirm the allegations made.

Private Supplies

Two water samples of a private supply which it was proposed to utilise for a new bungalow to be erected at Scratchface Lane, Clovelly Road, were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. The reports on these samples indicated that the supply was unsatisfactory, as a result of which the owner of the proposed bungalow undertook to connect it to a main supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal

The County Council have informed the Borough Council that a grant towards the cost of sewage disposal for Bideford is dependent on

there being a combined scheme for Bideford and Northam. Investigations are now proceeding on whether such a scheme should be land based or by means of submarine pipe outfall.

East-the-Water Stage III scheme and the Chanters Lane area scheme are still in course of preparation.

Drainage

A considerable amount of inspectorial time was again taken up with investigation of problems connected with old drainage systems.

With an ever increasing volume of sewage entering the old sewers, which have for some time been overloaded, drainage troubles must be expected and lasting improvements secured only with the completion of the new sewerage system and sewer outfall.

INSECT PESTS

Very little trouble was experienced from infestations during the year. Help and advice was given to occupiers of several premises.

RODENT CONTROL

The previous arrangement whereby members of the Borough Surveyor's outdoor staff undertook the work of investigating complaints and treating infested premises was terminated during the year, when an officer was appointed, on a part-time basis, to assist with certain duties in the department, including rodent control. Shortly after taking up his appointment, he was given special training in rodent control work.

Following a lapse of time since previous sewer treatments, and prior to the appointment of this officer, it was found necessary to engage the services of an outside contractor to carry out sewer treatments. The acute poison, fluoracetamide, was used and notwithstanding the long period which had elapsed, the results showed that the sewers were not infested to any degree.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was three.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered under the abovementioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The functions of the Devon County Council with regard to licensing of waste food boiling plants for animal feeding have been delegated to this Council.

The importance of adequate boiling of the food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised as it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

There is one licensed plant in this area, and this is inspected regularly.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act requires establishments used for boarding cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

One such establishment was licensed by the Council.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

No additions were made to the register of Scrap Metal Dealers during the year the number of registered dealers being six.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	2	56	12
Retail Shops	4	128	59
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses....	3	13	4
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	3	13	12
Fuel Storage Depots....	1	4	—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 113.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Premises	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	379
Retail Shops	499
Wholesale departments, warehouses	125
Catering Establishments open to the public	118
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	33
Total	1154
Males	529
Females	625

Exemptions

No applications for exemption regarding space, temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

Accidents

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

(*a*) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises or

(*b*) disables any such person for more than three days.

During 1968, one accident only was notified. This accident concerned a hotel waitress who, whilst carrying a cheeseboard along a passage, fell over some cardboard cartons and fractured certain bones in her right hand. Obstruction by these cartons was deemed to be the cause of the accident, but floor defects and inadequate lighting in the passage were evident, and the company were required to remedy these matters.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The foodstuffs shown in the following table were inspected and condemned for the reasons stated:—

TABLE OF CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
36 Tins of meat	Tins blown or damaged	—	2	0	3	8½
2 Tins of meat	Tins perforated	—	—	—	20	0
16 Tins of meat	Decomposition	—	1	0	23	7
3 Pieces of meat	Decomposition following breakdown of refrigeration pant	—	—	—	6	0
1 Tin of meat	Pronounced and objectionable odour	—	—	—	9	0
79 Packets of meat	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	1	1	6
1 Tin of fish	Tin damaged	—	—	—	—	7¾
70 Packets of fish	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	1	1	15½
58 Tins of fruit	Tins blown, damaged, leaking or rusty	—	—	2	14	10
52 Tins of vegetables	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	2	0	8½
2 Jars of vegetables	Jars leaking	—	—	—	2	6½
105 Packets of vegetables	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	2	2	7
16 Packets of pastry	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	—	8	0
3 Tins of soup	Tins blown and damaged	—	—	—	2	13
1 Tin of creamed rice	Tin damaged	—	—	—	—	15½
2 Tins of Bournvita	Tins blown and damaged	—	—	—	—	8
	TOTAL	—	5	3	14	1¼

In addition 46 gallons of ice cream which had melted following breakdown of refrigeration plant was condemned.

The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is:—

Bakehouses	2
Butchers Shops	15
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons and Fish and Chip Shops	24
Confectioners	21
Fishmongers	3
Greengrocers	20
Grocers and Provision Dealers	49
Market	1

10 premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods.

57 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, one being a wholesale store supplying other retailers.

In addition there is one registered manufacturer of ice cream producing ice cream by the heat treatment method, and one registered manufacturer using the cold mix method of manufacture.

Condemned food, which consists mainly of tinned foods and small quantities of provisions, is taken by the Council's cleansing department and disposed of by burying at the bottom of the refuse tip.

80 visits of inspection were made to food premises, vans and stalls, and improvements secured where necessary.

Samples of ice cream were taken during the year and sent for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

Producer	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
A	1	–	–	–	1
B	–	3	1	–	4
C	2	1	1	–	4
D	1	–	–	–	1
E	1	–	–	–	1
F	2	–	1	–	3
G	1	–	–	–	1
H	1	–	–	–	1
I	1	–	–	1	2
J	1	–	–	–	1
K	1	–	–	–	1
L	1	1	–	–	2
M	1	–	–	–	1

MILK SUPPLY

15 purveyors of milk are registered as distributors, one of these being a large concern which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority as a pasteurising establishment. This establishment, in addition to selling by retail, supplies by wholesale all but two of the remaining distributors.

There are four premises registered as a dairy.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

The number of licences issued for the year was reduced by two to thirty-five. Total quantities stored increased slightly to 64,745 gallons of petroleum spirit and 2,204 gallons 6 pints of petroleum mixtures.

Following the introduction of increased licence fees, the income from this source has increased considerably, the total fees paid to the Council in respect of the above licences amounting to £122 0s. 0d.

In concluding I wish to thank all members and officials of the Corporation and the staff in my office for their help and consideration.

I am,
Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,
Your obedient servant,
A. E. T. NETTING.